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Cancer Connection is published quarterly by the Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership.

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION

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Message from the Partnership Steering Committee

— Al Einstein, Jr., MD, Executive Director, Swedish Cancer Institute, and chair of the Medical Care Committee



On January 20, the WCCCP sponsored a highly successful national level meeting, Better Care for Cancer at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, in Seattle. The WCCCP medical care committee, in pursuing its goal (#15) to improve the quality of cancer care provided in Washington, realized the need to:

1) Update the community on current thinking regarding the evaluation and measurement of cancer care quality; and

2) Initiate a dialogue on how we in the State of

Washington could meaningfully evaluate and have an impact on quality of cancer care at the state level.

This meeting targeted all members of the health care community, including providers, payors, governmental policy makers, public health officials, commercial companies, and academicians. Approximately 145 persons attended the all day event. Corporate and institutional sponsors as well as registration fees funded this first class meeting.

The faculty consisted of national health policy experts on the quality of cancer care as well as local public health investigators and state government representatives who provided a broad spectrum of perceptions and approaches.

- Joseph Simone, M.D., chairperson for the Institute of Medicine quality of cancer care committees, discussed the need for evaluation of cancer care quality, the American Society of Clinical Oncology initiative for evaluating quality in the medical oncology practice setting, and the IOM recommended measures for the Georgia cancer plan quality initiative.
- William McGivney, PhD, CEO of the National Comprehensive Cancer Centers, discussed the nationally recognized NCCN clinical guidelines for the various types of cancer, and the clinical data bases being built to evaluate the members' adherence to the guidelines, and the emerging use of the guidelines as a standard of care for payors and governmental agencies.
- Rodger Winn, M.D., of the National Quality Forum (NQF), raised the need for agreement on common set of quality measures for cancer care and presented the NQF's efforts in breast and colon cancer.

[Continued on page 9](#)

Washington Colon Health Program

- Ellen Phillips-Angels, MS, CHES, Women's Health Unit Manager,
Public Health Seattle & King County, and chair of the Colon
Cancer Task Force

The Washington Colon Health Program (WCHP) is a pilot project funded for 3 years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal is to increase colorectal cancer screening. The WCHP is linked to the successful Washington Breast and Cervical Health Program infrastructure. Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) is the baseline test. Colonoscopy is the baseline test for clients with identified high risk factors and to follow-up on abnormal FOBT tests. We are nearing the end of the 6 months planning time and preparing to start screening services in March upon receipt of clearance from the CDC. A CDC site visit occurred February 28-March 1.

Current activities include:

- Conducting training sessions at each of the participating primary care centers about procedures
- Producing project client brochure for in-reach recruitment.
- Completing the ACCESS database and identifying funds to adapt the Washington Breast and Cervical Health Program's Data Management System for the WCHP
- Completing procedures and policies including addressing CDC's "special situations"
- Printing client forms
- Recruiting GI specialist in the service areas.

The pilot is being implemented at the following clinics:

- Country Doctor and Carolyn Downs clinics
- Family Planning of Clallam County
- Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers (3 sites)
- Public Health - Seattle & King County (3 sites)
- Seattle Indian Health Board

For further information contact:

- Shelley Lawson, Project Manager
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206-296-1530
shelley.lawson@metrokc.gov
- Ellen Phillips-Angels, Project Director
Public Health - Seattle & King County
206-205-5679
ellen.phillips-angeles@metrokc.gov

Partnership Meetings

Prostate Cancer Task Force

March 28: 9:00 - 12:00 pm
American Cancer Society, Seattle

Medical Care Committee

March 29: 9:00 - 11:00 am
Swedish Medical Center, Seattle

Secondary Prevention Committee

April 12: 10:00 - 1:00 pm
DOH Office, Kent

Environmental Carcinogens Workgroup

April 14: 10:00 - 12:30 pm
DOH Office, Tumwater

Policy and Legislation Committee

April 20: 9:00 - 11:00 am
DOH Office, Kent

Prostate Cancer Task Force

April 25: 8:30 - 12:00 pm
American Cancer Society, Seattle

3rd Annual Summit

April 27: 9:00 - 3:00 pm
RSVP 1-800-417-7776

Steering Committee

April 28: 9:30 - 12:30 pm
DOH - Kent

Policy and Legislation Committee

May 18: 9:00 - 11:00 am
DOH Office, Kent

Membership and Communication

May 18: 12:00 - 3:00 pm
DOH Office, Kent

Medical Care Committee

May 19: 9:00 - 11:00 am
DOH Office, Kent

Prostate Cancer Task Force

May 23: 9:00 - 12:00 pm
American Cancer Society, Seattle

Colon Cancer Task Force

June 13: 9:30 - 11:00 am
FHCRC, Seattle

Secondary Prevention Committee

June 14: 10:00 - 1:00 pm
DOH Office, Kent

Policy and Legislation Committee

June 15: 9:00 - 11:00 am
DOH Office, Kent

Prostate Cancer Task Force

June 27: 9:00 - 12:00 pm
American Cancer Society, Seattle

Policy & Legislation Committee

July 20: 9:00 - 11:00 am
DOH Office, Kent

Medical Care Committee

July 21: 9:00 - 11:00 am
TBD

Partnership Committee Updates

PRIMARY PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Patti Santiago, American Cancer Society

The Committee has formed into 4 working groups—Worksite Wellness, Skin Cancer, Environmental Carcinogens, and Family History.

- The Worksite Wellness committee last met on March 7. Next steps include formulating a worksite wellness survey to send to official representatives for completion. A fact sheet on some worksite wellness tips will be included in the mailing.
- The Environmental Carcinogens workgroup held its first meeting on January 26. The workgroup is currently assessing work underway in Washington in their 3 priority areas—arsenic, diesel exhaust, and radon.

SECONDARY PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Vivien Hanson

Vice-Chair: Cheri Skager, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation—Puget Sound Affiliate

The Committee meets bimonthly. The committee met on February 8. Current activities and interests include:

- Developing evidenced-based interventions based on data and screening gaps;
- Considering the future role of the Washington State Collaborative in breast, cervical and colon cancer screening;
- Information-gathering on screening barriers specific to African American, Latina, and Vietnamese women in Washington State; and
- Membership recruitment of providers who work with targeted populations.

COLON CANCER TASK FORCE

Chair: Ellen Phillips-Angeles, Public Health Seattle & King County

The Task Force meets quarterly. The committee met on March 14. Current activities and interests include:

- Allocated approximately \$6,000 from last year's unspent funds to dissemination of ARC NW assessment findings;
- Awarded contract to Center for Health Training and Inland Northwest Health

services to conduct provider-based interventions;

- Implementing March Media Campaign. The committee will partner with the Mercer Island Half Marathon and Belo Marketing solutions to increase the total budget from \$50,000 to \$105,000;
- Working with Seattle-King County on their recently awarded Washington Colon Health Program; and
- Strategic planning for upcoming fiscal year.

PROSTATE CANCER TASK FORCE

Chair: Jim Kiefert, Us Too, International

The Task Force meets monthly. Current activities and interests include:

- Awarded a contract to the Center for MultiCultural Health to conduct provider/consumer based interventions around informed decision making (Jan 2006);
- Received research updates from University of Washington (Dr. Donna Berry - influence of personal factors on decision making about treatment options and Dr. Kelly Fryer-Edwards - educational intervention for physicians focused on decision making about screening)
- Developed a new objective to meet the goal of improved informed decision making: *by 2010, increase the proportion of men diagnosed with prostate cancer who have discussed personally relevant information with their provider to support informed decision-making about treatment options;*
- Allocated approximately \$10,000 from last year's unspent funds to dissemination of ARC NW assessment findings;
- Considering purchasing materials to educate on informed decision making around treatment options with \$20,000 from last year's unspent funds;
- Strategic planning for upcoming fiscal year.

Cancer Connection

MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Al Einstein, Jr., Swedish Cancer Institute

The Committee meets bimonthly. It last met on November 18. Current activities and interests include:

- Successful Quality of Care Symposium was held on January 20 at the Bell Harbor Conference Center in Seattle;
- Planning to assist in the coordination of improving cultural competence programs in Washington; and
- Strategic planning for upcoming fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Carrie Nass, National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service – Northwest Region

The Committee meets quarterly. It last met on December 1. Current activities and interests include:

- Regional meetings continue to be scheduled in both Yakima and Spokane;
- Draft partnership strategic communications plan developed;
- Issuing of the Winter edition of *Cancer Connections* Newsletter; and
- Ongoing recruitment in support of the Partnership and committees.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Co-chair: Michael O'Sullivan, American Cancer Society

Co-chair: CJ Gribble, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Washington

The Committee meets monthly. It last met on February 16. The next meeting is March 16. Current activities and interests include:

- Endorsement of 3 bills for the legislative session; and
- Strategic planning the legislative session.

We Welcome our Newest Organizational Members

- Providence Everett Medical Center
- Virginia Mason Medical Center

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Jeff Harris, University of Washington's Alliance for Reducing Cancer Northwest

Vice-Chair: Elaine Engle, Spokane Regional Health District

The Steering committee welcomed four new members to the committee:

- Carolyn Jensen, RS, MES, Yakima Health District;
- John Simmons, BA, South Puget Sound Intertribal Agency;
- Al Einstein, MD, Swedish Cancer Institute; and
- Linda Hohengarten, RN, MBA, OCN, Puget Sound Nursing Oncology Society

Lincoln Weaver, Director of the Office of Community Wellness and Prevention, offered the committee insight into the direction of Chronic Disease for the state, and an update on DOH staffing and reorganization. The 2006-2007 work plans for all of the Partnership committees were reviewed and approved. The role that the Partnership will play in the future legislative landscape was contemplated and next steps were outlined.

New Committee member and Medical Care Committee Chair, Al Einstein, presented the outcomes of the January Quality of Cancer Care symposium and highlighted potential next steps for the Medical Care committee.



Front row (left to right): Carrie Nass, Patti Santiago, Elaine Engle. Back row (left to right): Juliet VanEenwyk, Gary Meadows, Linda Hohengarten, Carolyn Jensen, Vivien Hanson, John Simmons, Jeff Harris, Al Einstein. Not pictured: Lynn Hagerman

Collaboration among National Partners at the Regional Level

- Garry Lowry, MPH, NW Region Public Health Advisor

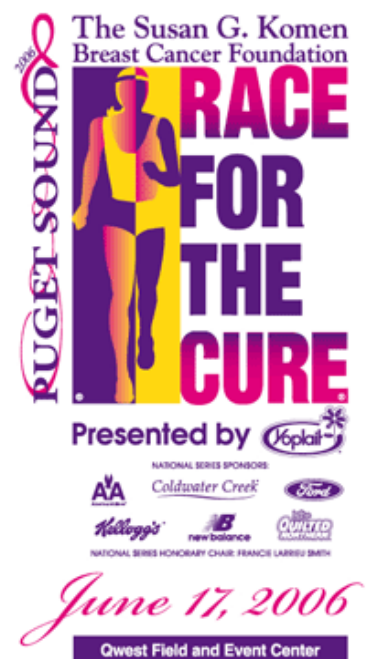
Integration and coordination of activities among stakeholders is the essence of comprehensive cancer control (CCC). These stakeholders become partners in the collaborative effort to expand and improve cancer prevention and control activities to reduce the burden of cancer. Integration and coordination can and should occur among partners at multiple levels (e.g., national, state, and local).

At the national level, partners include the American Cancer Society (ACS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC), and National Cancer Institute (NCI), among others. These national partners collaborate in various ways. For example, they sponsor the Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institutes – regional meetings for state/local level CCC leaders for the purpose of training, networking, and sharing experiences.

The national partners represent an important source of information and resources for CCC efforts at the state and local levels where partnerships are working to develop, implement, and evaluate cancer plans. Good communication between the national and state/local levels is important for efficient access to information and potential resources relevant to these efforts.

Recently, the national partners mentioned above have taken steps to promote better linkages between the state/local levels and the national level. Each of these partners (ACS, CDC, ICC, and NCI's Cancer Information Service) has staff that work at the regional level across the country. Those working with CCC programs and partnerships within the same region of the country have formed "Leadership Support Teams." These teams meet regularly to communicate about CCC efforts within their region. Hopefully, this communication will lead to better access to needed information, resources, and support for CCC programs and partnerships.

The Pacific Northwest Leadership Support Team covers Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Team members who are also partners in the WCCC Partnership include Kathy Briant (NCI/CIS), Patti Santiago (ACS), and Garry Lowry (CDC).



Partner Highlight – Overlake Hospital

– Rhonda Jack, MHA, Overlake Hospital



Overlake Hospital Medical Center is a nonprofit, independently operated, non-tax supported, community medical center, with a mission to serve the health care needs of the Puget Sound Region. Its primary market is the Eastside community that stretches from Bothell to Renton and from the Cascade Mountains to Lake Washington, including Mercer Island.

Overlake is licensed for 337 beds (257 with its current facility and an additional 80 beds with the hospital expansion expected to be complete in early 2008). Overlake employs more than 1,900 people, has nearly 800 physicians on its medical staff and has the support of approximately 400 volunteers. More than 67,000 people are admitted annually for inpatient and outpatient services and another 55,000 are treated in the hospital's Emergency and Trauma Center.

The American College of Surgeons (ACOS) has accredited Overlake's Cancer Care Program since 1974. In 2002, the ACOS upgraded the certification to Comprehensive Community Hospital Program. Cancer care at Overlake includes a dedicated inpatient unit with specially trained nurses, therapists, social workers and staff who provide care in a compassionate and knowledgeable fashion. Two breast screening centers and one diagnostic breast clinic staffed by dedicated breast radiologists offer the full range of care for patients undergoing breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Radiation Oncology is available on campus offering Mammosite and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) technologies. The Cancer Program is also fortunate to have two surgeons on staff who specialize in breast surgery. Rounding out the comprehensive program is a comprehensive Cancer Resource Center designed explicitly for support of cancer patients, and their families and friends.

Partner Highlight – Planned Parenthood Affiliates in Washington

– CJ Gribble, MSN, MHS, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Inland Northwest

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is the nation's oldest and largest reproductive health care provider. Planned Parenthood proudly traces its organizational roots back to 1916 when Margaret Sanger opened her birth control clinic in New York City – the first of its kind in the U.S.

Here in Washington State there are five PPFA affiliates: Mt. Baker based in Bellingham, Western Washington based in Seattle, Columbia/Willamette covering the Vancouver area, Central Washington based in Yakima and Inland Northwest based in Spokane.

Washington Planned Parenthood affiliates work together in the public policy arena to insure women and families are able to plan and space their children according to their own principles regardless of income. Because Planned Parenthood values prevention, we promote educational policies that respect the rights and emphasize the responsibilities of Washington youth regarding sexual health. We also advocate for funding to diagnose and treat STD's, breast, cervical and testicular cancer.

The protocols Planned Parenthood follows for *any* cancer screening are thorough, up to date and standardized by our physicians at the national level. In 2004, PPFA affiliates through out the United States did more than a million pap smears and more than 900,000 breast exams. In that same time period, Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest clinicians did more than 8,600 pap smears, 1,300 of which were abnormal and required follow up. Of those, 372 required complicated treatments such as colposcopy.

Nationally and locally prevention is Planned Parenthood's primary service, whether it is through education, contraception or cancer screening. PP believes that public policies and public funding should support prevention efforts in these and other arenas.

Planned Parenthood is pleased to be part of the Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership.



2006 Annual Summit

- Patti Santiago, MAOM, Manager of State Cancer Control Planning, American Cancer Society

The 3rd Annual Partnership Summit is being held on Thursday, April 27 in Sea-Tac. Invited speakers include Claire Schmidt Neal, MPH, CHES, National Partnerships Manager from the Lance Armstrong Foundation and Margaret Stanley, MHA, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Health Alliance. Ms. Neal will share the history of the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) and provide an overview of their programs, resources, and grant opportunities. She will also describe the role of LAF as one of the major national partners in comprehensive cancer control and discuss ways in which LAF can support state level efforts.

Ms. Stanley will present on the history, membership, and current activities of the Alliance. She will focus on their clinical improvement activities and the applicability of their work in diabetes and heart disease to cancer prevention and control.

The day will also include presentations of the 2nd Annual Frank Kirk Award to Jeffrey R. Harris, MD, MPH, MBA and the inaugural WCCCP Award to Cancer Lifeline.

As a participant, you will learn how to leverage partnerships to achieve greater success in your cancer work. You will also get an overview of the Partnership's many accomplishments in 2005 and gain a better sense of the future direction of the Partnership. Throughout the day, you will have a chance to network with other cancer prevention and control professionals and advocates. The Summit will be a great opportunity to make connections and become more involved in the work of the Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership.

For more information about attending this event please contact Preferred Planners, Sharon@preferredplanners.com or toll free at (866) 417-7776.

We hope you will JOIN us for a day of networking and learning!

Department of Health – Birth of a Unit

- Lauren Jenks, MPH, CHES, Unit Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Unit

About a year ago, the Department of Health Community Wellness and Prevention Office, which houses the cancer programs, began a process to identify ways to strengthen the ongoing integration and collaboration among our programs. This process has not only produced a new organizational structure for the Office, but it has also reinvigorated the Office's commitment to collaboration and partnership.

One of the changes you have already seen in our new structure is the coalescing of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Washington Breast and Cervical Health Program (WBCHP), and the Washington State Cancer Registry into a new Cancer Prevention and Control Unit. This new structure raises the profile of the cancer programs in Department of Health, demonstrating continued strong commitment to the success of these programs. It also allows us to bring focus and capacity to our commitment to improving the public's health through excellent, science-based work in collaboration with our partners. As a result, you will see improvements in efficiency, communication, and customer service from all our cancer programs.

In the meantime, our cancer programs and the Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership are already nationally recognized for exceptional work. The Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership has been nominated for the first C-Change Exemplary Comprehensive Cancer Control Award, honoring exemplary planning and implementation. The cancer registry continues to earn its Gold Star designation. And, thanks to the efforts of the Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership and, in particular, advocates at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the American Cancer Society, the WBCHP received an increase of \$1.4 million from the legislature this year, and as a result will be able to screen significantly more women.

Thank you all for your support & tireless work to prevent and control cancer in Washington!

Legislation Session 2006

- Rhoda Donkin, Washington State Department of Health

The Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership entered the state legislative arena this year endorsing three cancer-related bills and throwing in last minute support for a fourth bill as it awaited consideration in the House. Three of the four bills passed and plans are already underway to forge ahead next session with an even bolder Partnership presence on the Hill.

After years of trying to ban tobacco sampling in all venues in the state, SB 5048 finally passed during the final days of session. Current law prohibits tobacco sampling in places where youth congregate, but leaves opportunities such as neighborhoods near schools legal for distributing free samples. SB 5048 closes loopholes and prohibits sampling everywhere. Violations are treated as misdemeanors. The Partnership endorsed the legislation, joining the on-going attack on youth marketing of tobacco products in this state.

Senate bill 5714, also endorsed by the Partnership, puts the Washington State Breast and Cervical Cancer Program into state statute.

The Legislature included \$1.4 million to provide continued state funding for low-income, uninsured women to be screened for breast and cervical cancer.

Legislation that would have provided medically accurate sexual health education in any school district that offers health education to students (HB 1282) was also endorsed by the Partnership. It was introduced last session, but did not even get a hearing this session.

The Partnership proved nimble in responding to legislation that was new this session, deciding to support SSB 6188 once it gained momentum during committee hearings. The bill directs health plans in the state to pay for prostate cancer screening when it is advised by a physician or physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. The Legislature included \$50,000 to implement a prostate cancer public awareness and education campaign targeting men over 40, African American men, and men who are at risk of prostate cancer according to guidelines of the American Cancer Society.

SAVE THE DATE

Preferred Planners
PO Box 51221
Seattle, WA 98115

Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control
WCCCP PARTNERSHIP
Working together to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality in Washington State.

WCCCP 3rd Annual Summit
Thursday, April 27, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Marriott Sea-Tac Airport • 3201 S. 176th Street

Awards ~
2nd Annual Frank Kirk Award
Inaugural WCCCP Award

For more information contact:
Preferred Planners, toll free at (866) 417-7776
or sharon@preferredplanners.com

More Information Will Be Coming Soon!

Quality of Cancer Care in Washington (continued)

- Russell Hoverman, M.D., described US Oncology's efforts to adopt clinical pathways, implement practice quality framework, adopt process improvement initiatives for the nation's largest network of medical and radiation oncology practices.
- Andrew Stewart of the American College of Surgeons, described the National Cancer Data Base, a download of Commission on Cancer accredited hospitals' cancer registry data, and its usefulness in assessing guideline based quality measures and cancer survival.
- Maxine Hayes, the Washington State Health Officer, emphasized that the quality of care is a very high priority for the state government and especially for Gov. Gregoire.
- Juliet VanEenwyk, the state epidemiologist, discussed the structure of the Washington State cancer registry and gave examples of what kind of information it can and can not provide.
- Scott Ramsey, M.D., Ph.D., of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, presented his research linking cancer registry data to health insurance claims to assess quality and cost of cancer care.
- Jeff Harris, M.D., MPH, MBA, did a great job as the master of ceremony for the event and moderating the panel discussion.

Finally, the faculty panel then had an open discussion with the audience about where and how the WCCCP Medical Care Committee could go next in pursuing its quality of cancer care goal. Recommendations included starting small, gaining success, and building on success; defining how to get meaningful existing data easily; determining how to best get medical input for the State cancer registry; and determining how to work with the few major payors in the State to collect data. The meeting provided a lot of information and thoughts for the WCCCP Medical Care Committee to consider in its future deliberations.

BETTER CARE FOR CANCER A Symposium on the Quality of Cancer Care in Washington

The presentations, speakers, and panel discussions were video taped and are now available for viewing on the world wide web. Please click on the link below for a catalog of available presentations.

[Video Presentations of the Symposium](#)

BETTER CARE FOR CANCER A Symposium on the Quality of Cancer Care in Washington

Thank-you to our event
sponsors who made the
symposium possible

American Cancer Society
First Choice Health
Harmony Hill Retreat Center
Merck
Novartis
Pharmion
Puget Sound Cancer Centers
Swedish Medical Center
Washington State Tumor Registrars Association

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Making Your Wishes Known: 5 Wishes, an End of Life Planning Tool

Sponsored by Gilda's Club - Seattle

Wednesday, March 8, 6:45 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

Community Based Cancer-Control: A Seminar for American Indian and Alaska Native Community Health Advocates

Sponsored by Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Center for Healthy Communities; Mayo Clinic Spirit of EAGLES; National Cancer Institute; and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

March 12-17, Seattle

Registration is required. Contact Keely Moriarty at (503) 494-1126, e-mail moriarty@ohsu.edu for more information.

Steamed about cancer? For ages 13-18 who have been touched by cancer.

Sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Gilda's Club

Thursday, March 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Teen Coffeehouse at Gilda's Club, Seattle

No charge. For information or sign up to attend, (206) 709-1400.

28th Annual Oncology Nursing Symposium – Oncology Nursing: Living the Future

Sponsored by Puget Sound Chapter Oncology Nursing Society

March 17-18, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

To register contact www.psons.org.

Lung Cancer: Cutting Edge Treatment Options

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

19th Annual NW Regional Rural Health Conference: "Dare To Prepare"

Sponsored by Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center – Washington State University Extension

March 23-24, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane

To register contact, Charlotte Hardt (509) 358-7643, e-mail hardt@wsu.edu or Cathi Lamoreaux (509) 358-7509, e-mail lamoreaux@wsu.edu

Good Times for Goodtimes Wine Auction

Saturday, March 25, The Harbor Club, Bellevue

For questions or further information contact Katie Karlin at (253) 272-5368 x 243, e-mail katie.karlin@cancer.org.

Targeted Therapies in Colorectal Cancer: The Nuts and Bolts

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

APRIL

BCRA I & II Genes with Mary Claire King

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

10th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer

Sponsored by Intercultural Cancer Council and Baylor College of Medicine

April 19-23, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC

\$600 registration. Go to <http://iccnetwork.org/symposium/> for more info.

Skin Cancer Prevention in Children and Adults

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

3rd Annual Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership Meeting: Power of the Partnership through Collaboration

Sponsored by Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership

Thursday, April 27, 9:00 – 3:00 pm

No charge. For more information contact Preferred Planners, at (866) 417-7776 or sharon@preferredplanners.com

Komen Eastern Washington Race for the Cure

Sponsored by Susan G. Komen Foundation, Eastern Washington Affiliate

Sunday, April 30, Spokane Convention Center

For more information and to register visit www.komenspokane.org

MAY

Your Employment Rights as a Cancer Survivor

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

Safe in the Shade Walkathon

Sponsored by Melanoma International Foundation

Saturday, May 6, Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah

For more information, visit www.melanomainternational.org or call (866) 463-6663.

Surviving with Style Fashion Show: Gilda's Club Seattle's 9th Annual High Fashion Fund-raiser

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Thursday, May 25, 11:30 – 1:30 pm, Westin Hotel

For details call (206) 709-1400.

JUNE

Survivorship Planning for the Cancer Patient

Sponsored by Evergreen Hospital Medical Center

Saturday, June 3, Evergreen Hospital Medical Center

No charge. To register visit www.evergreenhealthcare.org, or call (425) 899-3000. For Program questions contact Shelly Henderson (425) 899-2660 or Sue Smiley (425) 899-1861.

Cancer, Genetic Testing, and Your Family

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

No charge. Sign up required to attend, (206) 709-1400.

Puget Sound Race for the Cure

Sponsored by Susan G. Komen Foundation, Puget Sound Affiliate

Saturday, June 17, Qwest Field Seattle

\$25 Registration fee. For more information visit www.komenpugetsound.org or (206) 633-6586.

Camp Sparkle! A day camp for kids (5-12) and teen (13-18).

Sponsored by Gilda's Club – Seattle

June 26-30, 9:30 – 3:00 pm

No charge. Space is limited, so sign up early to attend, (206) 709-1400.

JULY

2006 UICC World Cancer Congress (WCC), 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health (WCTOH), and the CDC Partners Summit

Sponsored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the International Union Against Cancer Conference (UICC)

July 8-12, UICC 2006 World Cancer Congress, Convention Center, Washington DC

July 12-15, 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Convention Center, Washington DC

Early bird registration ends April 1. See www.2006conferences.org/c-registration.php for more information.

Cancer as a Turning Point, From Surviving to Thriving™ Conference

Sponsored by Healing Journeys

July 8-9, University of Washington, Seattle

No charge. For more information and to register visit www.healingjourneys.org.